9:Lebanon G-5 (1952)1953 MEI Lebanon MEI

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In the Spring of 1952 the Lebanese Government submitted a request to the Technical Cooperation Service, Lebanon, for the completion of the project at an estimated cost of $ 650,000. The Government of Lebanon further requested that preliminary staff studies be made for the Kasmie area by Point Four technicians and their counterparts in the Government. On the basis of these studies, the Technical Cooperation Service, Lebanon, felt that the Kasmie area offered a splendid opportunity for a pilot demonstration Point Four Project. It was planned that the fields of public works, agriculture, public health, education, village craft and industry, and farm credit would receive immediate emphasis. It is these fields that are to be covered by a number of subprojects which constitute the Kasmie Rural Improvement Project. The end result sought is the economic and social improvement of an area where extreme poverty and a low standard of living are the normal conditions.

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It was decided by those in charge of the Improvement Project to select representative villages in the Kasmie area for demonstration centers where the people could be shown the value of a positive rural development program. Five villages were tentatively selected as demonstration centers. Working toward the south, these villages include Sarafand, Saksakiyah, Loubya, En-Nsariyah, and 'Adloun. These five villages are located in one segment of the Kasmie Irrigation Project which services a total of twenty-seven villages. Every facility will be utilized to extend the results obtained in the demonstration area to other parts of rural Lebanon.

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The three villages of El-Ghaziyah, En-Najjariyah, and El-'Addousiyah, located just to the north of the proposed Kasmie Rural Improvement Project, have been included in the more important tables. The extension of the Kasmie Irrigation Canal will bring water to their fields. These villages can be considered a control area since they will be affected by construction of the canal but not by the Rural Improvement aspects of the project. It will be well to watch the economic and social impact of development in the project area on these three neighboring villages.

It should be noted that this report deals with the Kasmie Rural Improvement Project and not just the Kasmie Irrigation Project. Included in the Improvement Project are lands of the Irrigation Project but these latter lands constitute only about 20 percent of the total area of the eight villages reported upon.

water supplies are not only inadequate and unsafe, they are also unhandy. In all cases the source is outside of the dei'ah and may be a mile or more away. This necessitates a long walk on the part of the women who carry the water in jugs to their homes.

One of the major items included in plans for the improvement project is that of furnishing domestic water to the villages. A well has been drilled near Loubya by the Technical Cooperation Service and it is planned to pump from it to a reservoir to be built on a high point. From here a pipe line distribution system will furnish water to fountains in each village.

In each of the five project villages, the persons interviewed stated that the nearest doctor, nurse, or hospital is located in Saida. Only Loubya reported having no midwife. Sarafand reported two midwives while the other three villages each has one midwife living in the village. It is beyond the province of this report to report upon the qualifications or training of the local midwives.

Schools

The information on village schools in the project area was secured from the local teachers (Table X). All of the project villages have government-run elementary schools, with the exception of Loubya. Loubya has no schools while Saksakiyah has a privately-run school as well as the government elementary school. While the school in En-Nsariyah has two rooms, the remaining ones are simple, one-room affairs. None of the villages offers education beyond the elementary level. Such higher education, however, is available at Saida or Beirut.

The number of pupils in each school varies from 20 in the private school of Saksakiyah to 100 in the 'Adloun government elementary school. This latter school is the only one reporting two teachers. The one classroom is usually small and the children sit, closely packed, at their desks. It is interesting to note the breakdown of the students according to sex. While 247 students attend the five schools, only thirteen of these are girls. The Shee'ah Moslems do not encourage their daughters to attend school. They feel that it is a hindrance to a happy marriage and often encourages disobedience to one's elders.

9:Lebanon G-5 (1952)1953 ME1 Lebanon ME1

811 The government furnishes a teacher for government-sponsored elementary schools. The village
658 in turn rents a school room and the rent is paid by small contributions from the students. The annual rent for one room varies from LL. 50 to LL. 250 per year.

815 Four of the government elementary teachers have completed their secondary education. As the fifth government elementary teacher provided this area was absent, it was not possible to determine his educational background. None of these men has been teaching for more than four years or less than two. The annual salaries of the government furnished teachers varies from, LL. 1,400 in Sarafand to LL. 1,800 in Saksakiyah. The only individual teaching without more than an elementary education was attached to the Saksakiyah private school and received a meager LL. 350 per year (about $100 at the current rate of exchange).

Local Attitude toward the Technical Cooperation Service

609 Expressions of confidence in the Technical Cooperation Service and Americans in general
185 were heard in all of the villages. The enumerators and others who visited these villages during the course of the study were all cordially received and were given fine cooperation. The expressed desire of the people to work with the Technical Cooperation Service seems genuine.

The ordinary villager has no conception of just why the Americans want to build irrigation projects, furnish schools, dig wells, or provide public health services for him, but he is hopeful that they will do these things for him. They react to all of this projected activity on a personal basis and will judge its results on the basis of the benefits that they personally gain from it.

Many villagers made a point of stating that *action* to relieve their situation is all-important. They felt that studies such as this are pointless, unless they are followed by worth-while acts. To a large extent they believe that only through some such agency as the Technical Cooperation Service can action be obtained and their situation improved.

17: Tannous S, G-5 (ca. 1947-48)1949 ME1 Lebanon ME1

Lebanon that it could no longer be absorbed within the country. The village folk had the choice of submitting to a life of poverty or of emigrating abroad, seeking new opportunities and fortunes. The first alternative was incompatible with their cultural heritage. They were mostly independent farm owners, not share croppers; they were awakened by a comparatively high degree of learning; they were exposed to influences of the West; and they had a long history of struggle against great odds, demanding initiative and enterprise on the part of the individual and the group.

Consequently, they resorted to emigration for relief. Some sought opportunities in the urban centers of neighboring Arab countries. They established themselves there as merchants, teachers, publishers, doctors, and as government officials in various capacities. Most of them, however, turned toward the promising New World, north and south. It is estimated that these emigrants, together with the families they have reared, now exceed in number the population resident in Lebanon itself.

Recent estimates put the population of Lebanon at 1.2 million, of whom about 75 percent are rural. There seems to be no slackening in the high rate of increase. The density of population, one of the highest in the world, amounts to about 300 per square mile of total area, and 1,200 per square mile of cultivated area. In the Middle East it is exceeded only by Egypt, which holds the world record with a density of about 2,000 per square mile of cultivated area.

This biological resource of the village community constitutes both a serious problem and a challenge to Lebanon. Emigration possibilities for the surplus population are no longer as readily available as they were prior to a decade or two ago. A realistic, long-range solution lies in the application of an enlightened population policy and developmental program that would result in controlled growth on the one hand, and in the efficient development of the country's natural resources on the other.

The second major contribution of the village community to the country is economic. This is readily apparent and needs little elaboration. Dwellers in the villages are the farming folk of Lebanon. Their agricultural activity is the mainstay of the

17) Tannous S, G-5 (ca. 1947-48)1949 ME1 Lebanon ME1

national economy. They produce most of the food consumed by the country, as well as raw materials for industries and some surplus products for export. In fact, agricultural items are Lebanon's principal exports. Agriculture is also destined to play an even greater role in the future. At present the area under cultivation amounts to 640,000 acres, including less than 100,000 acres under irrigation. The crop land can at least be doubled, mainly by means of expanded irrigation. The abundant water resource could be much more efficiently utilized than it now is for increasing crop production, for the generation of power, and for household uses. There are good possibilities for the development of such agricultural and cottage industries as canning, dairying, cold storage for fruit, tanning, and handicrafts. Furthermore, production can be materially increased by the application of improved methods of cultivation. In other words, the village folk of Lebanon are in a position to make an even greater contribution to the national economy than they now do, provided they are given the necessary technical training and expert guidance.

In the third place, the rural community has been a main contributor to the cultural development of Lebanon. By culture here is not meant the conventional fine arts or those items of refinement in behavior that are shared by the few. We mean rather the pattern of living that is characteristic of Lebanon as a whole. We find here certain distinctive features, many of which can be traced directly to their origin in the village community. It is true that cultural influences from abroad have been finding their way into urban centers and thence into rural areas. These influences, however, together with those that have originated in urban centers, have not superseded the main body of culture, which remains predominantly rural. Family solidarity, group loyalty, individual initiative and enterprise, co-operativeness, community consciousness, a democratic way of living involving basic equality, and folk poetry are outstanding examples.

Finally, mention should be made of the significant leadership, in the various walks of life, that has been produced by the Lebanese village. The majority of leaders in politics, education, medicine, law, business enterprise, literature, and the other pro-

17:Tannous S, G-5 (ca. 1947-48)1949 ME1 Lebanon ME1

He soon develops a keen consciousness of belonging to the community. Through such consciousness his personality is expanded. The attainment of his life's objectives is tempered by a firmly established sense of responsibility as a member of the group.

It is in such surroundings that a spirit of true democracy is nurtured and developed. Viewed from this angle, the village community of Lebanon assumes a new national significance.

From the economic viewpoint, this type of physical structure has resulted in the development of a widespread problem of fragmented holdings. The Lebanese farmer frequently owns property that consists of some 10, 15, or 20 small plots, scattered in all directions from the village where he lives. Agriculturally, this type of landholding is inefficient. The farmer wastes much time and energy in walking from plot to plot. Furthermore, he cannot develop a satisfactory over-all plan of management for his land. A national plan for the consolidation of holdings, launched on a voluntary co-operative basis, thus is in order. Consolidation alone, however, would be only a temporary solution, for the prevailing system of dividing the land among the heirs and the practice of selling a small portion of a plot upon need would in time cause the fragmented holdings to reappear. Other complicating factors, some social and some religious, require that the problem be given more detailed study and analysis before a satisfactory solution can be devised.

The Lebanese farmer manifests a deep-rooted attachment to his land. It is his main source of living, and before him it supported a long line of his ancestors. It is an integral part of his being; he speaks of it with religious fervor. The various plots he owns carry personalized names, referring to certain qualities, incidents in village history, ancestors, or patron saints. By virtue of owning them and being a good farmer he is given status in the community and plays a role in its affairs. To sell out and migrate to another locality is abhorrent to him, a threat to his whole existence. When he is forced to emigrate abroad, he does so with the fervent hope that some day he will return to his village community, to the land that ties him in an organic manner to a long line of ancestors. If he is forced to mortgage or sell some of his land upon departure, his first concern is to remit money to pay

17: Tannous S, G-5 (ca. 1947-48) 1949 ME] Lebanon ME1

are numerous and varied. A large number of these are related to the religious life of the community. In addition to the regular weekly holiday and other general holidays of the Christians or Moslems, there are several community festivals held in honor of particular patron saints. Each of these festivals is an occasion for people of several villages to get together and celebrate, sometimes for two or three days at a time. They visit, trade, compete in games, compose folk poetry, participate in religious chanting or group singing, and dance the well-known folk dance, the *dabki*.

In a similar manner the people celebrate the harvesting of some of their crops. Also in the *sahra* they have a well-developed recreational institution: an evening get-together at one of the homes to visit, play games, or listen to a story being read or told. At the time of a wedding or a funeral, practically the whole community, old and young, halts its routine activities and participates in the affair. Here again the group manifests its solidarity and takes a new hold on life by expanding its happiness in the first case, and by lightening the burden of its sorrows in the second.

The village community of Lebanon is thus essentially a co-operative unit: in its family organization, in its traditions of neighborliness, in its religious institutions and social life, in its educational efforts. Co-operation, in one degree or another, is also involved in many agricultural activities such as the threshing of grain, the sharing of draft animals, and the assigning of water rights.

One can readily see in this a promising and secure foundation on which to establish a successful organization of agricultural co-operatives according to modern principles and techniques. In fact, a beginning has already been made along this line. In 1944 the Lebanese Government passed a decree providing for the establishment of a co-operative council, whose function is to guide and supervise the projected movement. The decree also covers various essential details of organization, obligations and rights of members, audit and inspection, and voting procedure.

The successful co-operative experiment of Abadiyeh village, in the mountains above Beirut, provides a striking demonstration of the manner in which such a developmental scheme can

17: Tannous S, G-5 (ca. 1947-48)1949 MEI Lebanon MEI

be successfully grafted upon the traditional community spirit and yield fruit. This society was started by a rural leader of the country, a native of the village, under the auspices of the American University of Beirut and the Near East Foundation of New York. It has been functioning continuously and successfully for more than ten years, a modern co-operative enterprise flourishing on the foundations of the traditional mutual aid of the village community.

Emphasis has been made upon two great needs in Lebanese agriculture — extension of credit at reasonable rates for productive purposes, and efficient marketing of produce. In both respects the Abadiyeh people have been amply rewarded. Over 300 of them belong to the society, representing, as heads of families, the great majority of the total population. The bulk of the surplus of grapes, the major crop of the village, amounting to over 1,000 tons, is marketed through the co-operative. With efficient packing and guaranteed grading, it brings higher prices in Beirut markets than others less carefully prepared. Loans to members have steadily increased. The farmers have been educated to borrow only for productive purposes, at a low rate of interest, and to pay back on time. They have also learned how to apply some of the profits to public services. Three or four other villages have already followed the example of Abadiyeh.

If given the encouragement and guidance that is initially necessary, the co-operative will find an unusually fertile soil for rapid growth in the rural society of Lebanon. Not only the problems of credit and marketing, but also those of increased crop production, livestock improvement, and procurement of supplies could be solved to a large extent by this form of organization. More important still, the co-operative society could develop ultimately into the integrating and dynamic center of village life.

III

Some fifty years ago, significant changes began to take place in the life of the Lebanese rural community. The main factors involved have been large-scale emigration to foreign countries; rapid development of elementary and higher education, mostly under the influence of Western agencies; expanded trade and

3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 MI Middle East
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1950–1 amounted to £L215·3 million. Over half this deficit was met from 'invisible' earnings, such as the tourist trade and transportation, and the rest from private donations and capital movements. Indeed, during this period Lebanon's balance of payments showed a small surplus of £L2·7 million.[1] Most of Lebanon's trade (about 40 per cent) is with other Middle Eastern countries, but the foremost country in her trade is the United States (about 20 per cent). Europe and Great Britain are important sources of imports but not such large export markets. Lebanon's main imports are agricultural products, textiles, machinery, and oil, and her chief exports are agricultural products and textiles. The tourist industry is given full encouragement by the Government and, under certain circumstances, tourists' fares to Lebanon are subsidized.

Development

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On 24 February 1951 Lebanon signed a Point Four agreement with the United States and the work to be carried out is based on the report to the United Nations in 1949 by Mr Gordon Clapp.[2] Irrigation projects are under way at Akkar, Yamouna, and Qasmiya, and there is a proposal to use the Litani river to irrigate over 12,000 acres of land. In August 1953 the Lebanese Government announced a four-year development plan; the main projects under consideration concern road and hydro-electric power development.

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Conclusion

The future of Syria and Lebanon will obviously depend to some extent on the past, many aspects of which have not been fully discussed here because the independent political and economic development of the countries began only in 1946. In internal politics events have moved too rapidly for any record to keep pace with them, and there is not yet apparent any stability that would allow one to regard views and information on the political scene as being valid for more than a brief period. As regards their external policy, the two countries have yet to be convinced that there is a community of interest between them and the West. The Western Powers need the use of Syrian and Lebanese territory on which to base a line of defence, but it is not expected that these countries could or should bear a significant part of the burden of defence in men, materials, and money. The Levant wants greater security against Israel than

[1] See table 6, p. 505 below.

[2] UN, Conciliation Commission for Palestine (chairman: Gordon Clapp), *Economic Survey Mission for the Middle East* (New York, December 1949).

25: Warriner S-5 (no date) 1948 MI Middle East
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the land. In 1926–31, 182 villages comprising 181,000 hectares were colonized in small properties by 6,000 families. The Government of Latakia compelled large proprietors in the region of Homs to give up their villages in the district of Masyaf in 1929; the land was distributed among the occupying peasants and sold to them at a price to be paid for in ten annual instalments. The village of Jib Ramle was also settled in 1929, in part by occupying peasants, in part by refugee Armenians.

But the French administration did not complete the settlement of these areas. In some regions the Turks settled these lands with nomad tribes, who were themselves averse to cultivation and either rented the land to Alawi villagers or continued to live themselves as nomads on the land without cultivating much of it. Consequently this land is now very sparsely settled. Round Homs there are said to be 2,000 to 4,000 hectares with only 10 per cent of the land cultivated: this is some of the most fertile and best situated land in the country, and could be developed by colonization schemes.

In several respects the French authorities have modified the Turkish system in ways which strengthen the landowners against the cultivators. One of these was the sale of the extensive *Waqf* properties to busines enterprises, irrigation concessions, or landowners. Another was the abrogation of the right of ownership acquired by ten years cultivation which benefited the small cultivators in enabling them to acquire new land.

Efforts were made to start co-operative and agricultural credit banks, but these never succeeded in breaking the peasant's indebtedness. Several large-scale irrigation schemes were started, but produced more water than could be used. The educational system did not extend to the villages. Within the framework of the existing system, thee reforms did little to raise the standard of the peasants. As a mandatory Power the French relied on the collaboration of the wealthy upper class, that is, on the landowners, and so could make no fundamental reforms in the land system.

POSSIBILITIES OF DEVELOPMENT

So far as dry land farming is concerned the possibilities of improvement are hampered by the dry summer, which necessitates a long period of fallow. However, it would be possible by

II. LEBANON

(Visited 1 - 15 December 1952)

1. The total area of Le .non is about 4,300 square miles, the population being estimated in 1940 at one and-a quarter million, of whom a high proportion live in the principal towns. For many years there has been considerable migration to foreign countries, and it is said that as many Lebanese live abroad as are to be found in their native land. 131 162 167

2. Lebanon is mainly a fruit-growing agricultural country, but pipelines from Middle East oil fields are being laid across the country to connect with newly constructed installations and harbours on the coast. In due course this development may influence the economy of the country. 241 315

3. Great hopes of agricultural expansion - to be accompanied, it is claimed, by schemes of rural community developments - are based upon the Litani Dam and irrigation project. At the time of our visit this project was under discussion between the Government and the United States Technical Cooperation Administration (Point IV), but matters had not advanced sufficiently to justify our attempting to follow in detail the intentions with regard to community welfare centres. 241 433 185

4. The agency of the Lebanese Government responsible for social affairs has only recently (1951) been raised to the status of Ministry. Still mo .recently, there had been a change of government and the new Minister of Social / airs also held two other portfolios. The Director-General of the Department whom met had not been continuously in office over the past years. No reply had been returned by the relevant Department to the Secretary-General's request (at the end of 1951) for information on community welfare centres. Background information was difficult to obtain. A decree which would have permitted the provision of multi-purpose community centres and enabled government support to be given in cash or by way of services, had been promulgated in 1951 (Appendix I). The decree had not, however, been put into operation. The initiative in instituting or developing such multi-purpose activities as we had the opportunity of seeing at Chtaura, Anjar and Jibrail had come mainly from voluntary agencies. 647 185

5. We visited the Chtaura Demonstration Centre and Anjar project on the 4th and 12th of December. The purpose of the original centre was to provide for Armenian refugees from World War I and in the earlier stages both the Near East Foundation and the Edward Haroghenulan Commemorative Corporation shared responsibilities for financing and management of settlements in this area. More recently, the Near East Foundation decided to concentrate on activities in Syria and Greece and brought its work at Chtaura to a close. Mr. Feldmahn of the Near East Foundation, who had had a long experience between the wars in community organisation in Bulgaria before coming to Chtaura, then transferred to the Haroghenulan Corporation. With his wife, he now supervises the various activities in a group of villages located in the Bekaa Valley between Beirut and Damascus. These activities include control of malaria, recreational programmes, organisation of marketing, provision of seedlings and plants, poultry breeding, milk co-operatives and educational projects. 361 185

6. At the time of our visit an illustrated lecture by an American veterinary expert (Point IV) was in progress. The co-operative milk marketing scheme appeared to be successful and to make a useful contribution to the milk supply of Beirut. The housing provided for the settlers and the general appearance of the village at Anjar were satisfactory. That of the Arab village of Medjel-Anjar some distance away was less so. In a former disused school house there was a primitive maternity and child 234 474 800

In a former district, school house there was a primitive maternity and Child

welfare clinic, under the charge of a palestinian refugee nurse. The nearest doctor was 20 kms. away. No fees were charged at the clinic, as the villagers were very poor. A well had been constructed one kilometre from the village; it was not kept in a good condition. Mr. Feldmahn told us that the Lebanese Government had co-operated in the activities of the centres, notably in the provision of aircraft for spraying for malaria control. His ambition, he said, was to start a demonstration centre in community welfare which would spread the movement over the whole country. We asked him why the Chtaura-Anjar group of activities did not in itself serve this purpose. His reply was that it was a settlement which had been started for foreigners by foreigners and that, in his view, something more directly associated with the Lebanese in conception and operation would alone suffice.

7. The Jibrail Rural Fellowship Centre. On Friday, the 5th of December, the Mission visited this centre, where Mr. Mounir Khouri, a very enthusiastic Lebanese graduate of the American University at Beirut continues the village reconstruction programme which was started in 1934 by Mr. S. Neale Alter, of the American Presbyterian Mission. An explanatory memorandum (Appendix II) by Mr. N. Alter sets out his philosophy. This Mission still gives some financial support (L.L. 7,000 per annum) but this amount is insignificant, compared with the cost of running the various activities. The staff has, therefore, to make substantial sacrifices (low salaries) in order to maintain the institution.

The following are some of the activities of the centre:

1. Creche for infants.
2. Day school for boys.
3. Boarding school for girls.
4. Experimental garden: vegetables, fruit trees.
5. Breeding of rabbits and chickens to increase food supply.
6. Recreation centre (pictures, lectures, etc.) for the villagers.

Since the centre possesses only modest resources, all these activities are necessarily conducted on a rather small scale. Only nominal fees are collected from the pupils. So far, lack of funds has prevented any activities in the field of medicine and hygiene, but Mr. Khouri told us that a nurse-midwife would be engaged as soon as the necessary funds became available.

The various buildings of the centre have been erected with the aid of the school boys. The education, both of boys and girls, includes one [illegible] practical work: carpentry, agriculture and horticulture for boys, first-aid and nursing for girls. The need for modern school books was pointed out by the teacher, a young graduate from the American School at Tripoli.

It seemed to us that the relations of the centre with the neighbouring village were good, witness the children who attend the schools, and the adults who make use of the recreation centre. The villagers are, however, not committed as [illegible] what they

361 the normal services of technical assistance - whether the latter were afforded under
497 Point IV or from United Nations funds. We tentatively noted with the Department the
652 possibility of a concurrent development of community social welfare with the help of
648 United Nations Technical Assistance, e.g., by instituting appropriate leadership classes and education in citizenship. Further consideration of the suggestion was promised but there are reasons which militate against progress on these lines. First, we understood that there is a general impression in informed circles that assistance to governments, whether for social or economic projects, is or can be made available under Point IV under more favourable conditions than those applying to United Nations technical assistance (this specifically refers to the proportion of local expenditure to be borne by the recipient government). Second, discussions then current in the local press stressed the view so widely held in the country that the provision of financial aid, chiefly in the form of capital, is just as essential, perhaps more essential, than foreign technique. Third, the simultaneous elaboration in an under-developed country of two many schemes of economic and social development, all of which are intrinsically desirable but which, cumulatively, are beyond the present budgetary and administrative resources of the country not only places an intolerable load upon the machinery of government it may lead to demands for capital expenditure on a scale which cannot be met. It would be regrettable if any pruning of requests for Technical Assistance that had to take place as a result of a belated recognition of this truth were to operate to the prejudice of fully considered schemes of community welfare development, particularly where such schemes had been designed as demonstration projects to become self-supporting in the near future.

891 10. Experienced sociologists, working mainly with foreign agencies operating in the
185 Lebanon and other Middle East countries, have urged the desirability under present
457 conditions of establishing with outside financial aid and, if necessary, under foreign direction, more community welfare demonstration centres. In these centres, as they see the position, the whole process of self-help in meeting the economic, health, educational and social needs of a representative sample rural community might be demonstrated and gradually fulfilled. Wherever practicable, and as soon as possible, local officials (administrators, doctors, teachers, agronomists and other technicians) would be encouraged to participate in the organization and management of the demonstration centre, even to the extent (it was suggested by one authority consulted) of rewarding the part-time services of these officials by supplementing the pay which they already receive from public funds. Leaders of the local community would, as the work progressed, be encouraged to form management committees for the various activities. In this way, it was thought practicable, on the basis of actual experience, to arouse interest in, and create a wider public support for the adoption by the government of the movement, leading, in course of time, to the establishment under official auspices of other centres and, ultimately, to a national movement on a self-supporting basis. We were later to see (in Syria, paragraphs (3)-48) the practical application of this philosophy on a modest scale under the auspices of the Near East Foundation.

11. As, however, technical assistance is available to governments only, and should be given only at their request, it is not easy to devise a means thereby plan or demonstration projects of private agencies for developing community welfare and ultimate local self-government can be brought within the scope of the present system. Further, it would manifestly be improper to stress the regulations to enable any privately sponsored application for assistance in establishing multi-purpose community welfare centres to be assisted until the Government has itself supported such a request through official channels. We understand, however, that in the meantime certain foreign voluntary agencies are able to give a measure of assistance for the purpose.

12. Recommendation. The close study, in association with local agencies immediately concerned, of ways and means of using United Nations technical assistance for immediately practicable schemes must be a continuous preoccupation of the permanent Technical Assistance Liaison Office in Beirut. In every community there are latent qualities of leadership to start movements which are basically in accord with human requirements and needs. What appears to be necessary in Lebanon is that a government agency should be persuaded of the desirability of developing rural community welfare as a part of the larger responsibilities of local self-government. It should openly work to this end by making the necessary financial provision to train at all levels representative citizens as leaders in the various techniques. Under such conditions United Nations technical assistance, in one form or another, could, if necessary, be made available to enable "foreign" techniques to be learned and then interpreted into the local idiom under local influences. What may conceivably now be viewed in some quarters with suspicion as interference recommended by foreigners for ulterior purposes might, even with the offer and use of international assistance, be transformed into a genuine local movement for self-help and community service, free from all suggestion of foreign exploitation or interference.

EGYPT

(Visited 15 December - 7 January; returned 8 February - 15 February to write the Report)

13. The total area of Egypt is estimated at one million square kilometres (386,110 square miles), the inhabited area being only slightly more than 35,000 square kilometres (13,507 square miles), with a population enumerated in June 1947 as 19,000,069 (including armed). In spite of heavy infant mortality and a high death rate, the population is still increasing. The latest estimate puts the population at 20,000,000.

14. The settled land area is stated officially at 7,687,000 feddans and the area of lakes at 641,000 feddans, a total of 8,328,000 feddans.

15. "Egypt lives on the Nile". The Nile has a total length of 3,750 miles, but for the last 900 miles of its course through Egypt it has no tributary streams. There is little rainfall and the irrigation of crops is largely dependent on the seasonal rise and fall of the river. The fertile lands on which the prosperity of the country depends, occupy the floor of the valley between the river and the receding cliffs. To the north of Cairo they spread out into the triangular fan-shaped formation of the Delta which comprises the six provinces of Lower Egypt, with the richest soil in the country.

16. The peasantry or fellaheen constitute not less than 10,000,000, or 70 per cent of the population. Their agricultural implements and equipment are primitive but their small plots of land are cultivated with exceptional skill and diligence. On the other hand, the fellah and his family live too often in squalor at or below the subsistence level, drinking and bathing in contaminated water and living in unhygienic conditions. Endemic diseases are rife in most of the villages and the inhabitants are generally too ignorant and poor to help themselves to better these conditions.

17. At the time of our visit the country was facing a grave economic crisis, occasioned by failure to sell the previous year's cotton crop. Until this year

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APPENDIX II

THE JIBAIL RURAL FELLOWSHIP CENTRE, LEBANON

By H. Basil Allen*

The Fellowship Centre is located in the village of Jibail, Akkar, Lebanon, which has around nine hundred people, all of whom depend on agriculture for their livelihood. This village is the geographical centre for an ecological area of some twenty thousand people. Our village reconstruction programme began in 1950, though the Presbyterian Mission had an academic school there before that time. Here is the only controlled, experimental demonstration centre of its kind in Lebanon. 361 101 185 621

When this reconstruction project began, Jibail, like most other villages of the Near East was resigned to half-crops, half-health, half-adequate housing, half-happiness, and half-living. Since we were convinced that all of these factors must be treated as a unit, the programme dealt with the following: fundamental education for teen-age boys and girls, as well as adults, control of diseases of men, animals and plants, improvement of agriculture and live stock, control of water and soil conservation and irrigation, rural industries to make use of leisure time; and the development of moral, social and spiritual values within the indigenous religious cultures. 621 [S 11] 185 361

We have been experimenting for several years with a strategy which would reach the whole village through contacting individuals, family units, the village and the ecological area in their "grass-roots" environment. This technique is the same as that which would be used to meet the economy of a rural family which had run down land, poor crops - hence poor food, inferior animals and trees, poor health; and consequently poor members in the family unit. In the Near East the village resembles a large family, consequently there must be a unit approach, rather than the departmental approach, as is used in the extension systems of the West. After there is considerable development the departmental approach may apply equally well to the East. 361 185

Over a period of years we have accumulated considerable data on this unit approach. Our Centre is constantly being requested by individuals, government and others to share this data, especially in the Arabic language. We feel that it would be a real service to the whole Near East to provide some printed material.

We have the following assets:

1. Personnel and Leadership. Mrs. Allen and I have had special training and experience in rural education and rural reconstruction. We have developed a staff of able Lebanese who understand our philosophy and co-operate as colleagues. We are in process of developing a Lebanese Board of Directors to take over more and more of the administration.

2. We have two schools, for boys and girls, which are co-operating closely with the Fundamental Education of UNESCO. These schools have a student body and graduates through whom we may continue experimentation and demonstration. [874]

* Mr. Basil Allen is an American in charge of the Jibail Centre. He is assisted in the management of the Centre by Mr. Nasir Shoury, a Lebanese.

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5. We have community contacts and good will, not only in our own immediate area, but in the whole of Lebanon. Since ours is the only center of its kind in the country, the Lebanese Government has been sending visitors for information on rural education and reconstruction.

6. We have technological training facilities and we have been making good use of them. These could and should be greatly increased.

7. We have land and buildings, quite a bit of equipment and facilities for extension work. At the time Presbyterian Board has put in eighty thousand dollars in development.

8. We have a two-year development plan.

There is now a change in the time element in our development programme. We had planned our development programme with a six to ten thousand dollar yearly expansion budget for additional buildings, equipment and other facilities. We and others have come to the conclusion that there is an urgency for a more rapid development, if at all possible, so that we may have a more significant part in providing directive materials for those who are anxious to begin similar activities in Lebanon, and so that we should demonstrate more effectively an alternative to Communism. Since four committees in Lebanon felt this time factor so keenly, that they proposed a co-operative plan whereby they would provide significant sums for immediate expansion, after the consideration this plan was rejected.

Our Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions fully recognizes and endorses the validity of this time urgency. They also appreciate the value of the project, and intend to put in ten thousand dollars per year in the future towards salaries and operating expenses. Additional help is needed for simple buildings, staff, research, experimentation, and publication of materials in both Arabic and English.

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Details of the Programme of the Rural Fellowship Centre

It is the purpose and objective of our Fellowship Centre to make a co-operative ecological area of [illegible] of Lebanon, [illegible] able to contribute to the Lebanese national life and economy. In order to accomplish this objective we are carrying on the following activities:

1. Teen-age boys' and girls' education. Our programme of Rural Fundamental Education is built around the ten points that we consider of major importance for the development of teen-age and adults. These are the following:

1. Academic skills which provide the students with facility in the use of Arabic and simple arithmetic. A self-selected few who are going on to city high schools are given additional academics.

2. Occupational skills - for the girls home-making skills and for the boys agriculture (including soil conservation, animal husbandry and horticulture).

3. Socio-economic geography explaining the way people live in all parts of the world. Considerable use is made of visual aids.

[illegible]

4. Health and hygiene for both boys and girls – for the girls there to special emphasis on Home Craft and Housewifery.

5. Social study and development for the girls with special practice with a group of Kindergarten children.

For the boys this course is practical work in carpentry and repairs and improvements to the home, e.g., laying cement floors.

6. Family relationships which begins with the study of relationships of students to their parents and other members of their families, and continues to include neighbour and community relationships and friendly relationships to the nation and the family of nations. This course is mandatory as opposite options and electives.

7. Salvage collections including sewing, gardening, and the revising of posters and exhibits for both schools.

Now to expand the most difficult of the two groups especially as in relation to our basic theory of financing the schools. The theory is that students from should be collected for the Grade of the three years' course. The second year the students should were be able to work a small surplus in addition to the fees. However up to the present the average collections have produced the marginal income which is necessary to carry on the work.

8. Games, recreation and trade.

This feature of the programme is also difficult because it is not yet appreciated by the parents and also because of the lack of suitable materials. The extent of the [illegible] as to co-operate with other groups e.g., the Y.M.C.A., The Literature Societies, etc., in the production of these basic materials, drama, reading materials, songs, etc.

a. [illegible]

This feature is also difficult to arouse for three reasons – a lack of appreciation of the value of such activity, a lack of materials, and a lack of time where scores of graduates [illegible] a middle-school practice. There is a [illegible] to the more [illegible] with parents and [illegible] to be known by [illegible] the villages for the city or to [illegible].

10. Religion. The study of religion is not an isolated course but is to be [illegible] throughout the whole programme. It aims at the development of a personal religious [illegible] to God through Christ and of an [illegible] life, [illegible] the Bible and of the religious [illegible] of the student's family.

Adult education for the men and boys, i.e., evening school, shall needs a few additional comments. Although adult conservation is a part of the [illegible] and practical part of our school programme, time has also been one of our [illegible] features of our extension programme. With nature growing [illegible] vegetable crops, plenty of water for irrigation and very great possibilities for increasing fruit culture, it is very important to hold the returning adult according to scientific principles. Over a period of time we have developed a system for building terraces, but we have been using only primitive hand [illegible] tools and methods. We have now reached the point where we need simple and

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[illegible] equipment [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] Action or ref. D-3 [illegible] Subj: Middle East

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6. Go to serve as [illegible] relationship with the villages and co-operate in getting the trainees to their work centers. 321 874 185

7. The fellowship feature to provide living quarters for both the men and women trainees, and in the actual preparation of the food.

8. Go to provide training in Rural Sociology by important observation tours, summer courses at the Centre, and discussion seminars.

In order to co-operate with this training work the Jiland Rural Fellowship Centre would have to build living quarters for the women and men trainees, and to provide local staff for the training in Sociology. These items are included in our Ten Year Plan, as part of this report.

IV. Medical and Public Health. The above proposal of co-operating with training of public health workers [illegible] to closely with our existing programme of public health and community nurse. If we are to have such a co-operative our present work should be more of a model than it is at present. 321 744

We have therefore included in our Ten Year Plan as item for the improvement of our local community nurse facilities.

62: L L O. S-5 (1947-1950) 1950 MI Middle East
Israel MF1
Lebanon ME1
Syria MD1

would contribute the remaining quarter of the cost. About half of the State contribution would take the form of hospitalisation which would be largely financed from public funds, including the maintenance of general hospitals by municipalities.

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SOCIAL SECURITY BILL FOR LEBANON

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A Bill on social security prepared by the Ministry of Labour was receiving consideration by the Lebanese Government in 1950. The purpose of this Bill was to set up an autonomous national social security fund for workers which would eventually pay benefits in respect of employment injury, maternity, sickness, long illness, invalidity, dependants, unemployment and death. Various social charges which the law now imposes on individual employers would be taken over by this fund.

The proposed scheme would apply on a compulsory basis, in general, to employers of all undertakings in Lebanon except non-mechanised undertakings employing less than five workers and having a capital of less than £L.5,000. Agricultural workers not operating machinery, family workers and domestic servants would be expressly excluded. Employers [illegible] rate of 7 per cent. of wages and employees would pay a 4 per cent. rate. The additional revenue needed in each year would be provided by a Government subsidy.

The Bill provides for the introduction of the several types of benefit in three different stages. Payment of the first group of benefits would commence on promulgation of the law. These benefits would include employment injury benefits, family allowances, confinement allowances, and old-age and widows' benefits. To facilitate the financing of old-age benefits, employers would pay to the fund, either in a single lump sum or in instalments over a period of five years, certain amounts for which they were previously liable in respect of dismissal and related indemnities. The second group of benefits, including sickness and long-illness benefits and maternity care, would be introduced at the end of five years. The third group, consisting of invalidity and unemployment benefits, would be brought into force after 10 years.

The practicability of adopting the draft measure has been under study. The economic situation in Lebanon raises some difficult problems in this connection at the present time.

DEVELOPMENTS IN SYRIA

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The possibility of introducing certain types of social security legislation and the problems which would be encountered in doing so have

63.Simmons et al G-6 (1941-1953) 1964
MI Middle East

LEBANON

have retained close contact with their homeland, a factor which has had a profound influence on the social and the economic development of the country.

Unlike the neighboring Arab states, Lebanon is a compact territory. The density of population in the four administrative provinces, exclusive of Beirut district, averaged over 300 per square mile in 1949. It was 484 per square mile in Mount Lebanon, 356 in North Lebanon, and 291 in South Lebanon, but declined to 101 in the potentially fertile districts of the Bekaa. About 60 per cent of the inhabitants live under rural conditions in some 2,500 large or small villages. Urbanization has increased progressively within recent years, however, and almost one half of the population is now concentrated within easy access of Beirut. The city, which is not only the capital and the industrial metropolis of Lebanon but the principal port for the Levant states, had a population of 300,000 to 400,000 in 1950. Tripoli, the second largest city and the terminus of the pipeline from the oil fields in northern Iraq to the Mediterranean, had a population of roughly 70,000. Numerous towns in the southern and the central portions of the Lebanon range are popular resorts, with an annual influx of summer visitors.

The fact that Beirut has become one of the leading cultural and educational centers of the Near East has stimulated the spread of education in the rest of the country. The literacy rate is consistently higher among the men than among the women: it probably averages from 75 to 90 per cent in Beirut and the neighboring districts of Mount Lebanon and from 40 to 60 per cent in the other provinces. The expansion of education has been influenced by the activity of French, American and other foreign groups, but the division between the different systems has hindered the development of a unified national program. Theoretically, primary education is compulsory, although the facilities are inadequate, especially in the rural areas of the south.

vention of tuberculosis, assists in the hospitalization of needy cases and administers a sanatorium at Dahr el Basbek. The Armenian Charitable Society furnishes treatment facilities for the care of Armenian patients. The Young Women's Moslem Association was established for the promotion of education among Moslem women, and since 1948 it has maintained a training school for nurses in Beirut. The Mouasat Society, an organization of Moslem women interested in infant welfare work, finances a small maternity hospital in Beirut.

The medical schools of the American University of Beirut and the Université Saint-Joseph have affiliated medical care and preventive services. The Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in America supports a medical mission in Tripoli. The Near East Foundation directed a general health and rural improvement program in the Anjar villages in the Bekaa valley from 1944 to 1951, when it retired from Lebanon. It also instituted an extensive malaria control project in the Anjar and the Amnik swamp areas. The Kaloustian Corporation, in America, contributed substantially to the work of the Foundation in the Armenian villages, and provides for the maintenance of child welfare centers in Anjar and Beirut.

The Lebanese Public Health Association is prominent among the professional societies. It is concerned with the promotion of public health in Lebanon and with the dissemination of educational materials. The Lebanese Medical Association is likewise active, and publishes a journal for its membership.

Two industries maintain medical facilities for the benefit of their employees—the Iraq Petroleum Company, at Tripoli, and the Trans-Arabian Pipeline Company, at Beirut and Sidon. The Iraq Petroleum Company also subsidizes a medical insurance scheme for the families of its employees. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees carries on public health programs in the various camps

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p. 119(B)

377 six hydroelectric stations, with an aggregate capacity of 171,000 kilowatts. 1/
312 The scheme calls for construction of three major dams, five others, 210 kilometres of irrigation canals, 41 kilometres of tunnels and 12 kilometres of high tension transmission lines. The cost of the dams is estimated at LL 88 million, that of the power plants at LL 189 million and that of the transmission system at LL 28 million; total costs, including irrigation, are put at LL 342 million. Construction is planned over a period of twenty-five years. Annual operation, maintenance and repayment charges are estimated at about LL 20 million. Benefits are calculated at about LL 12 million increase in the annual gross value of crops and a net average annual return of LL 19 million from the sale of power.

185 Two important measures have been taken to get this project under way. A draft law has been presented to Parliament, providing for formation of a national electricity and water corporation, with a capital of one million shares of LL 100 each. Fifty-five per cent of the capital will be held by the Government, and 20 to 30 per cent will be reserved for Lebanese citizens. No individual may own more than 100 shares. The corporation would plan and execute all future irrigation work and power development in Lebanon, present concessionaries having the option of continuing until the end of their term of concession or of exchanging their concessions for shares in the corporation. The corporation's concession is for ninety-nine years.

647 In July 1954, a National Litani Office was created, as an autonomous
185 government agency charged with implementing the Litani project. In September, tenders were invited from engineering firms to act as consulting and supervising agent for the Office. There are indications that the Office is seeking to implement the first phase of the project, which calls for a dam and reservoir at Kareoun, a diversion tunnel to the Biari River, and a dam on the Biari; two hydroelectric stations, with an aggregate capacity of 38,000 kilowatts; and the irrigation of 5,700 hectares above Kareoun. The cost of this phase is estimated at LL 177 million. 2/ The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development has sent a team of experts to evaluate the project, and it is hoped that a loan will be forthcoming.

Other projects

653 Transport projects have absorbed the greater part of government expenditure on development in the post-war period. Between 1945 and 1954, inclusive, expenditure through the ordinary budget on "roads, ports, buildings and other works" amounted to LL 113 million, out of a total of LL 173 million. In the years 1944 to 1951, inclusive, expenditure from the Development Works

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1/ The output of these stations is estimated to range from a maximum of about 586 million kilowatt-hours to a minimum of about 284 million; in an average year, output is estimated at 426 million. The hydroelectric plants are to be complemented by thermal stations with a capacity of 132,000 kilowatts; the cost and output of these stations are not included in the figures given above.

2/ Le Commerce du Levant, 24 July 1954, 1 September 1954, and 21 October 1954.

185, 433, 654

Egypt	MR1
Turkey	MB1
Iraq	MH1
Syria	MD1
Lebanon	ME1
Historical Palestine	MF2

/For an account of the program of industrialization in countries of the Middle East after World War I up to 1945, see 66: Bonné, M1 Middle East, category 116 as follows: Turkey - pp. 274-284, Egypt - pp. 285-286, Iraq - pp. 287-289, Palestine - 289-290, Syria and Lebanon - pp. 290-291./